

# ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
Bangor, Wisconsin

**Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

**Monday 'Repeat' Service: 7:00 p.m. (June Through August)**  
**(Sunday School & Sunday Bible Study Resume After Labor Day)**

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**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**July 12, 2020**

**Personal Prayers For Worship: Pages 10-11 & 134-139 (front of hymnal)**

Opening Hymn - 436

Liturgy – Page 38 (front of hymnal)

**Scripture Lessons:**     Isaiah 40:10-11     Psalm 23 (KJV)  
                                     1 Peter 5:1-4     John 10:1-21

*(Please note responses after Epistle & Gospel Lessons – Page 40)*

Hymn – 375

**SERMON – John 10:1-21 – THE 23<sup>rd</sup> PSALM IN THE FLESH**

*The Apostles' Creed – Page 41 (front of hymnal)*

*The Offering Will Be Brought Forward*

Prayers - Lord's Prayer – Benediction

Closing Hymn – 432

## WELCOME!

Whether you are here in person or following us on live stream during these days of COVID-19, we pray that you are blessed as you hear God's Word today. If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register in the narthex. To learn more about the Bible's teachings or about becoming a member, contact the pastor (486-2754). LARGE PRINT HYMNALS are available in the narthex. Services are also telecast downstairs for those with restless children.

## "THIEVES AND ROBBERS"

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1978, in the jungle commune of Jonestown, Guyana, South America, more than 900 people drank cyanide-laced purple Flavoraid served up from a common pot. More than 270 were children. The babies were given the poison with little syringes. Folks who resisted or tried to run were gunned down. Their cult leader, Jim Jones, finally dispatched himself with a bullet to the head.

In March of 1997, Marshall Applewhite played out a similar scene in Rancho Santa Fe, California. His 39 followers figured that the appearance of the Hale-Bopp Comet meant it was time to shed their earthly bodies and meet up with "the mother ship." In blind loyalty to Applewhite, they all washed down the poison with vodka. You hear about such things and wonder how people could be so brainwashed. How could they be so controlled by one man? How could they be so emotionally bullied?

More often than not, those who attach themselves to a cult leader are disgruntled, disillusioned refugees from some existing denomination. The cult leader himself is perhaps someone who didn't get his way where he was and wanted absolute control over people's lives. The power was his narcotic. He may have started out with a Bible in his hand, but pretty soon it was all about him. His distorted, unscriptural teachings became law. Lost sheep...blind leader.

Church history is filled with such extremes – Christ-denying cults that began around some magnetic or intimidating personality.

Charles Taze Russell founded the Jehovah's Witnesses. Joseph Smith founded the Mormons. Mary Baker Eddy founded the Christian Science movement. All these are anti-Trinitarian cults. Some years ago David Koresh and his Branch Davidians went out in a blaze of glory in a controversial show-down with the government. Koresh called himself "the Lamb of God" while bedding down the women of his flock. Rev. Sun Myung Moon led his "Moonies" of the Unification Church years back. Maybe you remember them selling flowers in the airports and assembling for mass weddings. Moon is dead. They don't get much press anymore.

This arrogance of the personality cult is found not only in the extremes. Whenever and wherever pastors or lay leaders fashion fan clubs for themselves, name their ministries after themselves, and fleece the flock to enrich themselves, an infection sets in.

Instead of pointing souls to Christ Jesus, every cult is founded on someone dead or dying. But a true Christian congregation is founded on the words and redemptive work of Him who died and rose and is alive forevermore. Christ's sheep know the voice of their Good Shepherd. Trained by His voice, they can also detect the accent of a false shepherd.

Jesus said: "Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber...Amen, Amen, I tell you: I am the door for the sheep. All who came before Me were thieves and robbers...I am the door. Whoever enters through Me will be saved...I am the Good Shepherd...I lay down My life for the sheep..."

Be safe out there! There is only one Door...and only one Shepherd...our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

**THIS WEEK:**

Today - Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.  
Mon. - 'Repeat' Worship Service: 7:00 p.m.  
Wed. - Scrip Orders Due  
- **Congregational Pre-Call Meeting, Main Floor: 7:00 p.m.**  
Thurs. - **Building Committee Meets at School: 7:00 p.m.**  
Next Sun. Communion in Both Services  
**Quarterly Voters Meeting on Main Floor: 1:00 p.m.**

**WEDDING** – Mikayla Horstman & Ross Caygill said their marriage vows before the Lord's altar yesterday.

**IN GRATITUDE TO GOD** \$50.00 has been given to the webcast fund.

**DATES OF CONGREGATIONAL PRE-CALL MEETING & CALL MEETING**

A congregational Pre-Call meeting will be held on the main floor of the church **THIS Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 p.m.** This Pre-Call meeting is open to all of our members, men and women. **The purpose of the meeting** is for the District President, Pastor Mike Jensen, **to hold a Bible study** on the Divine Call, **then to receive input** from the members on the needs of the congregation going forward **so he can proceed to formulate a Call list of men for a future Call meeting.**

Recognizing that the pastoral ministry is not a "job" or a "hiring," but a Divine Call from the Holy Spirit through the congregation of believers, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide the process. (As is often customary, in order not to inhibit free conversation, your current pastor will intentionally not attend this congregational meeting.) **THE ACTUAL CALL MEETING** will be a **Voters** Meeting, not a congregational meeting.

**THIS CALL MEETING BY THE VOTERS HAS NOW BEEN OFFICIALLY SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 7:00 P.M. ON THE MAIN FLOOR.** Either District President Jensen or Circuit Pastor Schultz will lead the voters in calling from a list of candidates prepared by the District President.

**PASTOR & MRS. HEFTI** will be visiting family from Friday, July 24 through Wednesday, July 29. **Pastor Paul Stuebs** will conduct services here on July 26-27.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PASS THE WORD** that St. Paul's continues to live stream services for **those who may not yet be ready or able to attend in-person worship.** We understand concerns about recent "spikes" of the virus, and respect the different choices our members make. Do not hesitate to wear a mask to church **if you so wish.** Along

with sanitizing between services and common sense distancing, we want **those who choose to attend services** to feel as safe as possible.

**ON THE TABLE IN STREET-LEVEL ENTRY** – Luther High *Advocate* Magazine  
July Shut-in List

<b>2020 Weekly Budget:</b>	<b>\$9,948.43</b>	<b>Budget To Date:</b>	<b>\$258,659.18</b>
<b>Received Last Week:</b>	<b>\$6,070.00</b>	<b>Received To Date:</b>	<b>\$239,647.90</b>
<b>(Offerings Received include online and memorial donations to General Fund)</b>			
<b>Attendance Last Week:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> – 82</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – 31</b>	<b>Mon. 39</b>
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>152</b>

Nursing homes and hospitals are still restricting regular access at this time. For the safety of everyone and for the protection of our shut-ins, usual pastoral visits will be delayed. **In urgent circumstances, do not hesitate to phone the pastor (486-2754) and he will be happy to minister to you on a personal basis.**

**7/12/20 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**